

29 August 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Andrew's Primary School and Early Childhood Centre. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- Across the school and Early Childhood Centre, staff and children are welcoming and keen to share their ideas and experiences with visitors. Children cooperate well with each other in pairs and groups during learning experiences.
- In the Early Childhood Centre, the senior lead practitioner works well with the practitioner team to provide an environment with a caring ethos where children are settled and are developing confidence.
- In the school, staff are developing shared approaches to support children's progress in learning in literacy and English and numeracy and mathematics. These approaches are beginning to have a positive impact on children's attainment.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the school and a representative from East Ayrshire Council.

- Improve planning for continuous improvement and implementing change. This should include setting measurable and sustainable improvement priorities which focus on improving children's attainment and achievement. In taking this work forward, it will be important to increase opportunities for children and staff to lead on school improvement and influence change.
- Develop a cohesive and consistent approach to promoting children's wellbeing and inclusion in the school. This should include clear operational guidance on processes and record-keeping, to help staff meet the needs of all children.
- All staff should continue to develop their understanding and use of nurturing and restorative approaches which support children to build positive relationships. In taking this work forward, these approaches should be shared with all stakeholders.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#) and [How good is our early learning and childcare?](#). Quality indicators help schools, local authorities and inspectors to judge what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for St Andrew's Primary and Early Childhood Centre

| Quality indicators for the primary stages | Evaluation |
|--|---------------------|
| Leadership of change | weak |
| Learning, teaching and assessment | satisfactory |
| Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion | weak |
| Raising attainment and achievement | satisfactory |
| Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school? (4th edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale | |

| Quality indicators for the nursery class | Evaluation |
|--|---------------------|
| Leadership of change | weak |
| Learning, teaching and assessment | satisfactory |
| Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion | good |
| Securing children's progress | satisfactory |
| Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale | |

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Reports page | Inspection reports | Education Scotland](#)

What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with East Ayrshire Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within one year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with East Ayrshire Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school, we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

Helen Mulholland
HM Inspector